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CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Note verbale dated 1 November 1995 from the Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit a summary report of the Second World Police Congress, held at Santiago from 3 to 6 October 1995 and attended by more than 30 delegations from different countries.

In view of the importance of the topics considered at this international event and of the proposals deriving therefrom, the Chilean Government considered it appropriate to bring this report to your attention with a view to having it circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 106.

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ANNEX

Summary report of the Second World Police Congress, held at Santiago, Chile, from 3 to 6 October 1995

The Second World Police Congress was held at Santiago, Chile, from 3 to 6 October 1995. The Congress was organized by the Carabineros de Chile under the sponsorship and with the support of the Chilean Government.

This international event was attended by representatives and members of 33 police institutions from 27 countries on five continents. Participants came at the invitation of the organizing institution, in accordance with the agreement reached at the First World Congress, held at Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia, in 1991. The purposes and objectives of this meeting are reflected in the final declarations of previous Congresses.

It can be said, however, that these meetings constitute a response to the contemporary world's urgent need, which is apparent from deficiencies in these bodies, for improved communications that can help to combat organized crime more effectively and forge a common front against the dangers facing society today and tomorrow. This can be better illustrated through a brief overview providing background information and an account of the work done to date.

I. BACKGROUND TO THE FIRST WORLD POLICE CONGRESS

The First World Police Congress was held at Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia, in September 1991. The Congress was organized by the Colombian National Police and attended by representatives of police forces in the following countries: Bolivia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Ecuador, France, Italy, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Spain, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Venezuela.

The purpose of this international event was to exchange theories and experiences, methods of crime control and information about new forms of criminality, to identify common problems and joint solutions and to strengthen the teaching units of police institutions around the world.

At the end of the working sessions, the participants adopted the following agreements:

1. To state their intention to make the World Police Congress an institution whose structural and organizational bases would be adopted at the next meeting. To that end, all participants agreed to encourage their respective Governments to extend official support;

2. To support the establishment of a temporary secretariat under the authority of the Colombian National Police until a permanent secretariat was chosen at the next World Police Congress;

3. To encourage, through the temporary secretariat, other countries and police organizations to become members of the proposed World Congress;

4. To support the proposal by the delegation of Chile to hold the next Congress in Santiago, in honour of the sixty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Carabineros de Chile.

II. PURPOSES OF THE SECOND WORLD POLICE CONGRESS

The purposes of the Second World Police Congress were to:

1. Learn about and study the experiences of fellow police institutions in order to confront the realities of change in the areas of organizational development and modernization as the twenty-first century approaches;

2. Design and improve general strategies aimed at enhancing the work done by police institutions in meeting society's vital needs for public order and safety;

3. Encourage government initiatives aimed at promoting the ongoing process of integration in police circles through the establishment of standing bodies for advisory services, liaison and international cooperation;

4. Exchange information on initiatives and activities in the area of police management which emphasize continued respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals, thereby enhancing the quality of life and social harmony;

5. Facilitate the coordinated development of academies, institutes and universities in member countries with a view to consolidating police sciences into a scientific and technological field with its own methodology.

III. CONCLUSIONS REACHED ON THE PROFESSIONAL TOPICS CONSIDERED AT THE SECOND WORLD POLICE CONGRESS

In accordance with the programme of activities of the Second World Police Congress, various topics were considered on the days allocated for that purpose. During the debate, representatives of participating police institutions delivered reports, expressed their views and reached the following conclusions:

A. Topic 1: "Human resources, a competitive advantage in modern police operations", led by Mr. Enrique Nieva Muñoz, Guardia Civil, Spain.

1. Human resources are a strategic resource which a police force must protect, develop and use optimally to achieve its goals. The demands on police today, in which efficiency is measured in terms of immediate responses to rapidly changing situations, call for the establishment, maintenance and development of competitive advantages.

2. Admission to a police force must follow adequate recruitment and selection procedures using appropriate methodologies. This will make the police profession one that is socially meaningful, commands respect and "pays well".

3. Staff training must emphasize moral, social and cultural considerations as well as science and technology.

4. Appropriate motivation lies in meeting needs and expectations, fair pay, social acceptance, recognition and incentives, and an awareness of the social responsibility of the police.

5. Leadership means managing human relations properly in order to obtain the cooperation of individuals. Leadership must be based both on communication and on positive measures that promote an awareness of current challenges.

6. A modern police officer must be motivated and inspired by a permanent social contract; he/she must serve as a bridge between the State and the community. He/she must creatively anticipate the occurrence of events that may affect the safety of individuals or other assets, such as public property.

B. Item 2: "Economic crime", led by Inspector-General Mamat Bin Talib, Chief of the Royal Police of Malaysia.

1. National economic development requires the conclusion of treaties between Governments which support the achievement of national goals. The police must further this objective by coordinating police activities to halt transnational crime.

2. In the legislative domain, legal measures that can enhance police effectiveness must be harmonized, drawing on shared experiences and identifying solutions to common problems.

3. Phenomena affecting other countries should be studied in advance in order to prevent adverse scenarios; this should include the study of attacks on public property, prevention and economic development, which require the existence of international treaties that promote the achievement of the corresponding national goals. In addition, police institutions around the world must work to expand their international relations with a view to coordinating their efforts to combat transnational crime organizations.

C. Item 3: "Terrorism: a strategy for its neutralization", led by Lieutenant-General Victor Alva Plascencia, Director-General of the Peruvian National Police.

1. Awareness of terrorist activities plays a key role in the formulation of national policies aimed at preventing violent acts.

2. Countries must coordinate or harmonize their legislation to facilitate the prevention, investigation and neutralization of terrorist acts.

3. To undermine subversive activities, police efforts must receive vital support from intelligence. This requires a broader and higher degree of preparation, both of officers and in the intelligence schools that train them.

D. Item 4: "Information: its positive and/or negative effects on security and crime", led by Mr. Mohamed Hani El-Azaby, General in the National Police and Under-Secretary of the Interior of Egypt.

1. Information is fundamental to decision-making in society, especially to police institutions, given its multifaceted nature which comprises positive aspects, which help police efforts, and negative ones, which benefit offenders.

2. The phenomenon of criminality has assumed a supranational dimension which calls for the development of policies for coordination between countries and especially between their police institutions, implying a true joining of wills.

3. Because of its increasingly technical nature, information requires specialists who can transform it into a useful tool for police.

4. It is essential that mechanisms be created to protect information from possible theft in order to safeguard individual rights and freedoms.

5. Proper management of information by the police promotes effective interaction with the community and meets its needs in a satisfactory fashion.

E. Item 5: "Drug abuse and its incidence among children and youth", led by Mr. Osvaldo Muñoz Sanhueza, Inspector-General of the Carabineros de Chile.

1. Drug abuse is a scourge that affects youth and children with growing intensity and danger; because of their immaturity or weakness, children and youth are a greater source of social concern.

2. Appropriate treatment of drug abuse calls for concerted global policies and strategies, especially through the mass media, that can offset the harmful and destructive efforts of drug traffickers while strengthening young people and educating them about the harmful effects of drug trafficking and use.

3. Chile's experience offers a valid model in the area of youth prevention, protection and education. It involves a multidisciplinary effort by State institutions which has led to the design and implementation of various initiatives that have the backing of all of society.

IV. AGREEMENTS AND RULES COMMITTEE

This Committee considered the draft agreement on institutional status submitted by the Colombian National Police. Following the working sessions, the draft text was adopted by a majority of police organizations attending, who agreed on the need to give tangible form to the initiatives that had brought them together.

However, in accordance with national and international law, substantial progress in this area requires, both now and in the future, the holding of consultations and the provision of appropriate support as necessary.

V. FINAL AGREEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE SECOND WORLD POLICE CONGRESS

The Second World Police Congress agrees to:

1. Adopt, in principle and in its entirety, the preliminary draft agreement concerning the conferring of institutional status on the World Police Congress submitted by the Colombian National Police, taking as its basis the concept, structure, purposes and objectives and agreed articles, in accordance with the report of the Agreements and Rules Committee, annexed hereto;

2. Endorse the establishment of a Technical Working Group responsible for preparing the final draft of the statute to be submitted to the Third World Police Congress, with the Working Group to meet in Colombia during the first quarter of 1996;

3. Welcome the proposal by the representative of the Pubic Security Force of the United Mexican States to host the Third World Police Congress in Mexico in 1997;

4. Share information derived from the experiences and studies relating to police activities with a view to helping Governments define new and better strategies for the prevention of crime and the proper definition of illicit new activities resulting from human progress;

5. Study, through the various institutional offices, permanent communication mechanisms or channels that would permit adequate, rapid and efficient interaction between member organizations;

6. Encourage member Governments to pledge their support, at the political, legislative and budgetary decision-making levels, for the new body being formed and to promote its eventual recognition at the international level;

7. Promote initiatives aimed at the setting up of adjunct police offices and other forms of police representation, preferably in the States whose police organizations are members of the new body being formed;

8. Commend the presence of the observer for the United Nations, Mr. Julio Heredia Pérez, and his participation in this event as well as his support in promoting initiatives aimed at fostering exchanges between police organizations as they continue to expand their fight against international crime;

9. Express its gratitude to the Colombian National Police and to the Government of Colombia for the successful campaign against international drug trafficking, for the benefit and peace of mankind.